



**The
Calhoun
School**

**A Century
of Excellence
1896-1996**

Elementary, Middle
and Upper Schools
433 West End Avenue
New York, NY 10024
Tel 212 877-1700
Fax 212 877-2450

Lower School
160 West 74th Street
New York, NY 10023
Tel 212 721-0990
Fax 212 721-2012

14 April 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

MAY 2 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am the Technology Coordinator of the Calhoun School, and I would like to thank you for your work with the Federal Communications Commission. I am concerned, however, that the Telecommunications Act may not continue to include the proposed education rate, which would provide affordable access to the Internet and the World Wide Web for all schools and libraries.

Today's technology can provide rich resources for students. Unfortunately, it can also serve to widen the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots." It is imperative that we, as educators and policy makers, do not further contribute to this bifurcation. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The discount will address the needs of all schools, and the inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn.

Our students - those at Calhoun, and at schools throughout New York City - need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

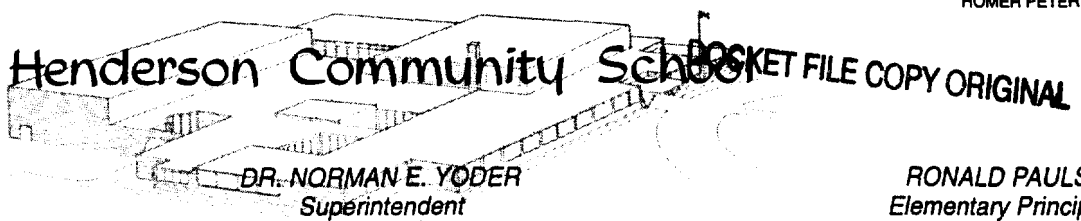
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Debra A. Reiner
Technology Coordinator
The Calhoun School

APR 17 3 30 PM '97

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
FEDERAL
COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION



BLAINE FRIESEN
Secondary Principal

RONALD PAULS
Elementary Principal

Box 626 • HENDERSON, NEBR. 68371 • (402) 723-4434 • FAX (402) 723-4431 • e-mail: nyoder@esu6.esu6.k12.ne.us

April 14, 1997

MAY 2 1997

APR 17 3 37 PM '97

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am a superintendent from Henderson Community School, Henderson, Nebraska, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

These discounts will assist us in being able to continue offering internet services and distance learning classroom, although we are experiencing major reduction in funding because of current legislation.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support of the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Sincerely,

Dr. Norm Yoder
Superintendent

NY:dk

San Bernardino City Unified School District

E. Neal Roberts, Ed.D., Superintendent

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Your Public Schools ...
There's No Better Place To Learn



April 11, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 2 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

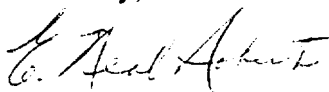
I am the Superintendent of the San Bernardino City Unified School District, located in Southern California. I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

Our District is the 10th largest in California and is characterized as a large urban district with over 70% of our students participating in the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch program. Almost 25% of our students are English Language Learners. As you can see from this brief sketch of the District, our students must have needed exposure to a world of information beyond their city. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to our District.

This plan would provide our District the needed funding opportunity to put in place an infrastructure (classroom and school wiring) to allow for connectivity to the Internet and additional distance-learning opportunities.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. Thank you for your support to the resources of our future.

Sincerely,

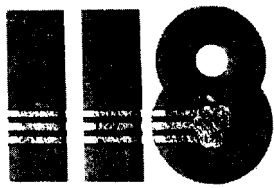

E. NEAL ROBERTS
Superintendent

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
April 17 3 37 PM '97



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

777 N. F Street • San Bernardino, CA 92410 • (909) 381-1240



DANVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT 118

EX PARTE OF LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Administrative Service Center

516 North Jackson Street

Danville, Illinois 61832

(217) 431-5400

FAX (217) 431-5423

David L. Fields

Superintendent of Schools

April 11, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20541

**The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554**

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am superintendent of Danville District #118 Schools, Danville, Illinois, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable and reliable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities for all students regardless of their geographical location. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce for tomorrow.

Danville District #118 Schools need deep discounts for the telecommunications services this year. I urge you to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools. Thank you.

Sincerely,

David L. Fields, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

DLF:ms

Faxed to (202) 418-2821

(c:\aasupt\data\nessltr.doc)

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Rushford-Peterson Public Schools

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 239 • BOX 627 RUSHFORD, MINNESOTA 55971 • FAX 507-864-2085

DAVID U'REN
Superintendent
507-864-7785

BRAD JOHNSON
High School Principal/Activities Director
507-864-7786

MARY L. ALLEN
Middle School Principal
507-875-2238

BRUCE BLIXT
Elementary Principal
507-864-7787

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 2 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner:

I am the superintendent from the Rushford-Peterson School District #239 and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

At Rushford-Peterson Schools, we are working with buildings that were built in the teens of this century, the thirties, the fifties, sixties and seventies. Even our newest building is not wired for electronic communications or even adequately for electricity for that matter. To bring the advantages of the Internet to our students, we must first spend a great deal of our resources on the infrastructure. What capital remains for the connection to a WAN and the internet fees is precious little.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you!

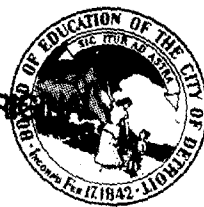
Educationally yours,

David U'Ren
Superintendent of Schools
Rushford-Peterson School District #239

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
APR 17 3 37 PM '97

5057 WOODWARD AVENUE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48202

DOCKET FILE COPY OF
DETROIT BOARD OF EDUCATION



April 5, 1997

HONORABLE IRMA CLARK
President
Member, Voting District 3

The Honorable Susan Hess, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 2 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness,

As president of the Detroit Board of Education, I want to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

The Detroit Public Schools is involved in a 15-year capital improvement project that will transform our 263 schools into institutions designed for 21st Century learning. If we are to successfully create that environment, we will need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support of the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Irma Clark

Irma Clark, President
Detroit Board of Education

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OFFICE OF
DETROIT
MAY 17 3 36 PM '97

Notre Dame Academy

324 Abercorn Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401
(912) 232-5473

0096-45
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 7, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED FILED

Chairman Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW
Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

MAY 2 1997

Dear Chairman Chong:

As Principal of Notre Dame Academy in Savannah, Georgia, I would like to express my appreciation for your dedication in making sure that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the chance to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities to our students who will usher in the 21st century. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of our schools, and more importantly, the plan will bring services directly into the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to this process. This plan is also essential in preparing our students for Work force 2000.

Currently, Notre Dame Academy has a computer lab that is 12 years out of date. Our school's technology plan is to up date and upgrade the equipment that is presently being used by our Kindergartners through eighth graders. If we are to meet the challenges of the 21st century, we need help. The "E-rates" would support what we are trying to do: provide a quality education to America's future citizens.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal services to schools on Docket number #96-45.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sr. Carolyn Marie Betsch, C.D.P.
Sr. Carolyn Marie Betsch, C.D.P.,
Principal

APR 11 11 55 AM '97

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN L. NICHOLS



A Heritage of Excellence

Mount de Sales Academy

Middle School Grades 7-8 • High School Grades 9-12

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

EX PARTS ON LATE FILE

Recognized
School of
Excellence



April 8, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 2 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am the principal at Mount de Sales Academy in Macon, Georgia and would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly into the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to this process. This plan is also essential in preparing our students for Workforce 2000.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal services to schools.

Sincerely,

Terrence G. Mermann
Principal

TGM:jmc

APR 11 11 56 AM '97

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
SCHOOL OF
EXCELLENCE

Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.
701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

One Financial Center
Boston, Massachusetts 02111
Telephone: 617/542-6000
Fax: 617/542-2241

Cheryl S. Flood
Internet Address
csflood@mintz.com

Telephone: 202/434-7300
Fax: 202/434-7400
www.Mintz.com

Direct Dial Number
202/434-7433

April 21, 1997

RECEIVED
MAY 2 1997

Ms. Janice Wise
Office of Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-262 -- In the Matter of Access Charge Reform (Notice of Proposed Rulemaking); and CC Docket No. 96-45 -- In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service

Dear Ms. Wise:

Consistent with the initial conversation with you stating that Friday, April 25th was the best date for meeting with Commissioner Ness, we have scheduled all of our meetings at the Federal Communications Commission for April 25. Currently our meetings are scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m. until 12:15 p.m., and continue at 2:30 p.m. until 3:45 p.m. We are happy to meet with Commissioner Ness at any other time that day that is convenient to her.

Please feel free to call me with any questions regarding this meeting.

Sincerely,


Cheryl S. Flood

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OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS

Frankfort Public Library District

RECEIVED

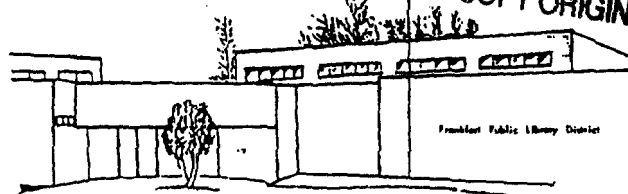
CC Docket 96-45

APR 21 2 22 PM '97

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TRUSTEES

Vicki Baker - President
Joan Romanus - Vice President
Michelle Caputo - Treasurer
Jeanne Lombaer - Secretary
Jeanne DeRaimo
Kay MacNeil
Carolyn B. Thompson
Lorraine M. Novak - Administrative Librarian



21119 S. Pfeiffer Road
Frankfort, IL 60423-9302
Phone: (815) 469-2423
Fax: (815) 469-9307

EX FACTO ON LINE FILED

April 16, 1997

Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW - Room 844
Washington, DC 20544

RECEIVED

MAY 2 1997

Dear Ms. Ness:

RE: CC Docket 96-45 - Universal Service to Libraries and Schools

I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for libraries and schools as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November.

The Recommended Rules allow libraries and schools significant discounts for the telecommunications and *critical, non-telecommunications* services necessary to assure that *all* of our public libraries and schools are connected to the Internet and other on-line resources that are critical to live, learn, and work in an increasingly information-driven world.

Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the clear intent of insuring that libraries and schools would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing significant discounts on telecommunications services, local wiring and Internet access, the Joint Board has accurately recognized the needs of poorer schools and libraries that cannot afford the internal wiring necessary to connect with the Internet. By allowing telecommunications companies and non-telco carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need for diverse technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural areas of the State.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter for our libraries and schools -- and -- ultimately for us all, as a better educated community benefits everyone. Please do not hesitate to call if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorraine M. Novak".

Lorraine M. Novak
Administrative Librarian



WOODLAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1620 LIVINGSTON STREET • MANDEVILLE, LA 70448

MARIAN C. ARROWSMITH, PRINCIPAL
JEAN KRIEGER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

EX PARTE ON LATE FILED



April 8, 1997

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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MAY 2 1997

APR 21 2 22 PM '97

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OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am a teacher from Woodlake Elementary School in St. Tammany Parish, Mandeville, Louisiana and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools and poorest school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Casey Ann Quinn
3rd grade teacher

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MAY 2 1997

April 14, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington DC 20554

Re: CC Docket Number 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am a classroom teacher from Northwest R-1 near St. Louis, Missouri, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. Thank you.

Sincerely,



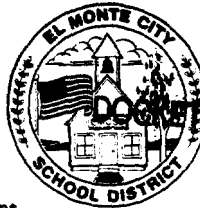
Elaine Koehler

APR 18 10 35 AM '97

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

EL MONTE CITY

3540 North Lexington Avenue



SCHOOL DISTRICT

El Monte, California 91731-2684 • (818) 453-3700

FILE COPY ORIGINAL

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

JEFF SEYMOUR.....District Superintendent
JOYCE ROEBUCK.....Deputy Superintendent
Business, Personnel & Administrative Services
ARMENÉ CHAVDARIAN.....Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
CARLOS MANRIQUE.....Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MR. DAVID B. REED.....President
MRS. EMILY ISHIGAKI.....Vice-President
MRS. BONNIE JIMENEZ.....Clerk
MR. STEPHEN D. HAKE.....Member
MRS. SUSAN WELDON.....Member

April 14, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am superintendent of the El Monte City School District, and would like to thank you for your efforts in making access to the Information Superhighway a reality for all school districts and educational consortia.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

The deep discounts will allow this school district to link not only every school and media center to the Internet, but also to link every classroom more rapidly than we have previous imagined. The savings would allow us to add classroom linkages on an on-going basis until every classroom in this district is linked and every child has access to the rich resources of the Internet.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for services to schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeff Seymour".
Jeff Seymour, District Superintendent

RECEIVED

MAY 2 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

APR 16 1997

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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Department of Education and Cultural Affairs

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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MAY 2 1997

April 14, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington DC 20554

Re: CC Docket Number 96-45

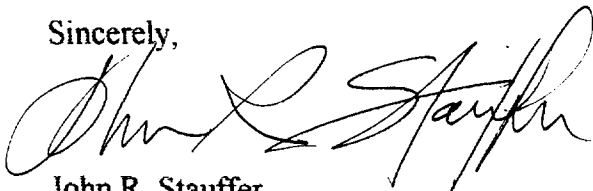
Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am a classroom teacher from Springfield, MO, Public Schools, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. Thank you.

Sincerely,



John R. Stauffer

APR 18 10 35 AM '97

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

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RECEIVED

MAY 2 1997

April 14, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington DC 20554

Re: CC Docket Number 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am a classroom teacher from City of St. Louis Public Schools, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Linda Smith

APR 18 10 35 AM '97

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

OCEAN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
OCEAN CITY, NEW JERSEY 08226

DONALD E. DEARBORN, Ed.D., SUPERINTENDENT

801 ASBURY AVENUE

TELEPHONE: 609-399-5150

RECEIVED

MAY 2 1997

April 15, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

As Superintendent of the Ocean City Public Schools, I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow. The discounts will allow our district to utilize our funds for further expansion of technology to every student.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Donald E. Dearborn, Ed.D.
Superintendent

DED/lrb

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
APR 16 10 35 AM '97

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MAY 2 1997

RECEIVED

April 14, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington DC 20554

Re: CC Docket Number 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:


I am a classroom teacher from Fort Zumwalt School District in O'Fallon, MO, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Clifdel Dowler



APR 13 10 35 AM '97

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
GENERAL COUNSEL

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Ed Rawlinson

Superintendent

April 14, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

As superintendent of Northside Independent School District, the seventh largest public school system in Texas, I would like to thank you for your vigilance in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

As written, the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and, most importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Northside ISD's Strategic Plan for Technology directs that all 2600+ classrooms in this sprawling, rapidly-growing, suburban-urban school system be connected to the Internet within the next few years. With an aggressive plan that calls for a minimum of five student computers and one multi-media computer teacher workstation per classroom, the successful connection through the school district's Wide Area Network to the world's information resources will depend on affordable telecommunications rates. This school system is committed to providing enhanced learning opportunities to our 60,000 students and 7,500 employees through the use of technology.

We need substantial and meaningful discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you to support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Ed Rawlinson
Superintendent

5900 Evers Road

San Antonio

Texas 78238

Tel: 210.706.8770

CC 96-45
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**APPALACHIAN
REGIONAL
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A New Vision*

Office of the Federal Co-Chairman

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The Federal Communications Commission's findings on Universal Service that will be released on May 8, 1997 will have a very significant impact on the 399 counties that are served by the Appalachian Regional Commission [ARC]. The ARC serves parts of 12 states from New York to Mississippi, and all of West Virginia.

The ARC fully supports the FCC in its leadership role in encouraging an environment of competition between different service providers. The ARC believes that the FCC should provide a support subsidy system for toll-free access to the Internet for educational and telehealth users, and advocates a subsidy program that will provide rural areas with the opportunity to develop the state-of-the-art telecommunications services that are needed to ensure an educated, healthy, and ready to work population.

For more than 25 years the Appalachian Regional Commission has had an active interest in the role that telecommunications technology can play in helping move the Appalachian region into the nation's economic mainstream. Starting in 1972, the ARC partnered with NASA, the University of Kentucky, and the country of India to launch a satellite that would deliver educational programs to schools and communities across Appalachia. The ARC helped to finance all types of downlink facilities, including satellite dishes and microwave equipment, in order to distribute the educational programming throughout the region. The satellite was eventually re-positioned over India, where it provided similar educational services.

Since 1989 the ARC has funded more than 40 advanced full motion and compressed video and computer-based telecommunication networks that serve the educational, medical, government, and business sectors throughout the region. Many of these networks have been expanded several times over the past 8 years. Nearly all of these networks are utilizing fiber optic or T1 lines that cross LATAs. In most instances these networks have been set up utilizing "special rates" offered by the respective telephone companies that serve the region. These special rates in many cases are about to expire or have already expired. In one instance, the telephone rate increased nearly 4 ½ times the original "introductory" rate.

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If similar significant rate increases occur, many users will simply turn off the equipment or disconnect from the network. When sites are disconnected, the entire community and its service area lose a valuable access to the Information Highway.

The ARC has supported the funding of these advanced telecommunication services because it feels that access to information is a critical element in a comprehensive economic development strategy for any community or organization. The ARC, as a Federal agency, has recognized and addressed the overall importance of the need for telecommunications services throughout the agency's Strategic Plan, which the Appalachian Governors and I unanimously adopted in 1996. The Commission believes that, unless the region is served by an affordable telecommunication system, Appalachia will be by-passed by the "Information Highway" just as the Interstate Highway System by-passed the region in the 1950's and 1960's. We believe that advanced telecommunication services are absolutely essential in building a sustainable economic base in a community.

As you know, the Appalachian region is comprised of many low and moderate income communities that are geographically isolated from major urban areas where there are numerous telecommunication services offered at affordable rates. The Appalachian region needs to have the same choices of bandwidths up to and including 1.54 Mbps necessary for the provision of telemedicine / telehealth care services, educational, governmental, and business sector uses that the more urban areas are already enjoying at this time.

If the rural Universal Service Rates are not comparable to urban service rates, the impact will be substantial and detrimental and will impair the Commission's--and the nation's--effort to give Appalachia a full seat at the table of American prosperity:

- rural areas will become less desirable places for businesses to operate from or locate in;
- many rural hospitals will cease to exist as the primary care site for communities, potentially resulting in a general decline in the overall health of a region and adversely affecting business recruiting activities;
- many doctors and other health care providers will not locate in rural areas unless they feel they can be supported by advanced telemedicine / telehealth services from the major urban areas;
- educational opportunities for traditional K-12 students will not be competitive with those in urban areas, impeding the effort to achieve the National Education Goals

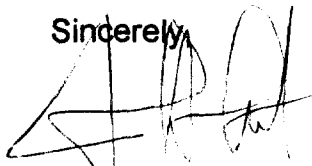
Mr. Reed Hundt
April 28, 1997
Page 3

- adult learners attempting to enter or re-enter the workforce (including welfare-to-work participants), as well as those needing skills upgrades, will not have access to current workforce training opportunities;
- local governments will lack the ability to more easily make their services conveniently available to their customers.

In short, if an affordable rural Universal Service rate structure is not put into place, the rural areas of Appalachia will become undesirable areas in which to live, operate a business, have access to adequate educational training, or secure adequate health care. The nation must have a carefully crafted subsidy program that takes into account the need to reduce distance-based telephone charges in education and telehealth-related services in rural areas.

I encourage you and your fellow Commissioners to keep these needs of Appalachia in mind as you craft your final rules on Universal Service. Please let me know if you or your staff desire any additional information about our telecommunications work in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse L. White, Jr.", written over the word "Sincerely,".

JESSE L. WHITE, JR.
Federal Co-Chairman

PRINCE STREET SCHOOL

400 Prince Street
Salisbury, MD 21804
phone 410-749-6735 fax 410-341-3916

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The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are faculty and staff from Prince Street School, Wicomico County, in Maryland. We are writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.

We would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the work force of tomorrow.

Our county has been fortunate in that a local provider has given our school free access for two years. This is the second year. In order for the schools to maintain this service, monies that might be spent on new access may have to be placed on hold. We have committees in place to write grants to provide as much monies as possible to put computers in every classroom, thus giving internet access to all students.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. We urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Faculty and Staff of Prince Street School
(See attached sheet for signatures and addresses.)

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PRINCE STREET SCHOOL

400 Prince Street
Salisbury, MD 21804
phone 410-749-6735 fax 410-341-3916

April 28, 1997

I, the undersigned, am in favor of the funding of CC Docket No. 96-45.

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April 28, 1997

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